

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01625 110132Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /025 W
-----076644 110533Z /23
R 100830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0029

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1625

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SGEN, SN
SUBJ: STRAITS TIMES CASTIGATES HEALTH MINISTER

REF: 76 SINGAPORE 5779

1. IN SCATHING EDITORIAL ON APRIL 10, STRAITS TIMES
ATTACKED HEALTH MINISTER TOH CHIN CHYE'S DEFENSE IN
PARLIAMENT OF PROPOSED INCREASES IN CHARGES FOR MEDICAL
AND DENTAL TREATMENT. EDITORIAL SCORES TOH FOR FRIVOLOUS
AND UNRESPONSIVE REPLIES TO QUESTIONS FROM PROMINENT
BACK-BENCHERS, CRITIZES HIM FOR HARSH COMMENTS ON
"ILLOGIC" OF MP PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, AND REACTS
ANGRILY TO HIS "BITTER TIRADE ON THE ENGLISH PRESS".
IT NOTES THAT THIS TIRADE REFLECTS A "STRANGE ATTITUDE,
COMING FROM THE SAME MAN WHO IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS
ELECTION VICTORY IN DECEMBER 1976 ADVOCATED MORE OPEN
DEBATE IN SOCIETY" (REFTEL) ADDING RHETORICALLY "OR
COULD IT BE THAT CRITICISM IS ALL RIGHT SO LONG AS IT
IS NOT DIRECTED AT THE MINISTER HIMSELF?"

2. ISSUE OF RISING MEDICAL CHARGES HAD ALREADY SPARKED
UNUSUALLY CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM SEVERAL MPS, WHICH
WERE FULLY REPORTED IN PRESS. STRAITS TIMES
EDITORIAL GOES WELL BEYOND USUAL BOUNDS IN DIRECTLY
CRITICIZING MINISTER, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE CHAIRMAN
OF PAP. TEXT OF EDITORIAL BEING POUCHED.
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HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, HEALTH, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780155-0241
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780474/aaaackvu.tel
Line Count: 56
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 896520b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SGEN, SOPN, PROP, SN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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